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7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
9 AT SEATTLE

10 FRANTZ SAMSON,

11 Plaintiff,

12 v.

13 UNITEDHEALTHCARE  
14 SERVICES INC.,

15 Defendant.

CASE NO. C19-0175JLR

ORDER

16 Before the court is Plaintiff Frantz Samson and Defendant UnitedHealthCare  
17 Services, Inc.'s stipulated motion to extend case deadlines. (Mot. (Dkt. # 73).) The  
18 parties seek a six-week extension to the deadlines to complete expert depositions for class  
19 certification, to seek leave to amend the complaint, and to file class certification briefing.  
20 (See *id.* at 2-3.) The parties allege that the COVID-19 pandemic has made it difficult for  
21 the parties to comply with the current case schedule. (See *id.* at 2.) The court has

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1 considered the stipulated motion, the relevant portions of the record, and the applicable  
2 law. Being fully advised, the court DENIES the motion.

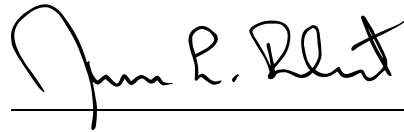
3 Although the court understands and appreciates the COVID-19 pandemic's  
4 impact, the court has a full docket that would quickly fall into disarray if the court  
5 granted extensions to every party who faced scheduling difficulties due to COVID-19.  
6 Thus, the court finds that alleging that COVID-19 creates scheduling challenges—  
7 without specifying what those challenges are or providing additional grounds for  
8 schedule relief—does not constitute good cause to modify a case schedule.

9 Here, the parties have not provided sufficient additional grounds for an extension  
10 to the case schedule given the tremendous amount of scheduling leeway that the court has  
11 given the parties in this case. On February 20, 2019, the court set a July 3, 2019,  
12 deadline to complete class certification discovery and an August 2, 2019, deadline for  
13 Mr. Samson to file a class certification motion. (*See* 2/19/19 Sched. Order (Dkt. # 15).)  
14 Since that date, the parties have filed seven stipulated motions to continue including the  
15 current motion. (*See* 2/28/19 Stip. Mot. (Dkt. # 32); 5/31/19 Stip. Mot. (Dkt. # 42);  
16 8/12/19 Stip. Mot. (Dkt. # 48); 9/24/19 Stip. Mot. (Dkt. # 50); 12/31/19 Stip. Mot. (Dkt. #  
17 67); 3/4/20 Stip. Mot. (Dkt. # 71).) The court's most recent order granting a stipulated  
18 extension moved the deadline to complete expert discovery to April 17, 2020, and the  
19 deadline for Mr. Samson to file a class certification motion to May 8, 2020. (*See* 3/6/20  
20 Order (Dkt. # 72).) Thus, the court has granted the parties more than nine additional  
21 months to complete class certification discovery and file a class certification motion.  
22 (*Compare id. with* 2/19/19 Sched. Order.) Accordingly, in its last order, the court

1 informed the parties that “[a]lthough the court has been indulgent with the parties’  
2 requests for extensions, the court cautions the parties that it is unlikely to grant additional  
3 extensions.” (*See* 3/6/19 Order at 2 (citations omitted).)

4 The court finds that the parties’ alleged scheduling problems are primarily of the  
5 parties’ own making and do not constitute good cause to amend the case schedule for the  
6 seventh time. Accordingly, the parties’ motion to extend is DENIED.

7 Dated this 6th day of April, 2020.

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10 JAMES L. ROBART  
11 United States District Judge  
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